

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell, August 28, 1898, with transcript

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PARENTS. Copy of a letter-press copy of a letter from ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL to his father concerning proposed trip to Japan. removed & filed Japanese Honor 5 — 1898 — drawer 5 August 28, 1898. Dear Papa:

Mr. McCurdy has just shown me your letter of the 19th. instant with an enclosure from Mr. T. W. Kennedy regarding cheese making from ewe's milk.

I would be very glad if Mr. Kennedy could come here in March 1899 and remain during April and May to make the experiment with my flock. If ewe cheese should prove a success under his management during that time I might establish a factory, but if not I would not do so.

I would be glad to know what his charge would be — contract to terminate at the end of May 1899. Should he decide to come he could bring all apparatus with him. He would have to undertake to milk the sheep, take charge of the milk, make the cheese himself without extra help, also make experiments in making butter from ewe's milk. In fact the problem to experiment upon would be the utilization of sheep's milk. Should the experiments demonstrate the practicability of utilizing sheep's milk I would consider the advisability of establishing an industry here for that purpose. So that if Mr. Kennedy would care to take up this matter I would be willing to pay him a salary for two months to be agreed upon and provide liberally for such apparatus as he should require for his experiments. The circumstances of my experiments necessitate lambing in March, 2 which is poor month for milk as the grass cannot be relied upon until the first of May. It would therefore be advisable in preparing for such an experiment for the young man to study what foods will assist most in the production of milk. I would not give milk producing

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food to my sheep before they lamb, but the moment they lamb, then all the milk producing food that would be desirable. The lambs will all be born during the month of March and by the first of April, a small milking flock could be provided without lambs. It would be necessary for him to come up some time before the first of April so as to be ready to start. During the month of April the sheep would require to be fed artificially as we cannot rely upon grass. During the month of May extra feeding would not be necessary.

Experiments could be closed about the first of June unless there should be special reasons for carrying them on longer.

Your loving son, Alexander Graham Bell.

Dear Papa:— P.S. Elsie and Daisy are anxious to travel this autumn and have planned out a trip to Japan and the Hawaiian Islands. We propose sailing from San Francisco September 17 — and expect to be back in Washington about Christmas. Neither Mabel nor I care much about going but we realize that our opportunities for travelling with our children grow less every year. Elsie is over 20 years of age and Daisy more that 18. How much longer will we be able to keep them with us? I don't like going so far away from you — 3 Aug. 28, 1978 but I know that my dear new mother will take good care of you while we are done. Give my best love to her. Though further away you will probably hear more from me — for I will not have the laboratory and other matters to cause constant pressure upon my time. I am a poor correspondent at the best — but my heart and thoughts are with you a great deal of the time.

I suspect that cunning Mr. McCurdy has finished my dictated letter at the top of the page with a purpose. To tempt me to fill up the vacant space in my own handwriting?

With much love, Alec. First part of letter about cheese making from cow's milk, etc. Filed in drawer # 11 under sheep. —